

In the Claims

1 1. An identification card reader for processing an
2 identification card having at least one dataform, said reader
3 comprising:
4 a housing having at least a bottom and a side;
5 a control panel disposed on said housing;
6 a display disposed on said housing;
7 a control circuit in communication with a memory;
8 a tray assembly mounted to said housing, said tray
9 assembly having a tray for receiving said identification card;
10 and
11 and an imaging assembly in communication with said
12 control circuit having an imaging axis passing through said
13 tray.

1 2. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said housing
2 includes a hole, and wherein said at least one tray opposes
3 said hole, wherein said imaging axis further passes through
4 said hole, and wherein an object detection symbol is disposed
5 on said at least one tray.

1 3. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said tray is

3 plate perpendicular to said imaging axis so that specular
4 reflections are reduced.

1 4. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said tray
2 assembly includes a plurality of trays.

1 5. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 tray is adapted to be of adjustable height.

1 6. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said memory
2 includes a lookup table that correlates card type with tray
3 height, and wherein said control circuit determines a card
4 type of said card and reads data from said lookup table to
5 determine a tray height for said card based on said card type.

1 7. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said tray
2 assembly includes a plurality of trays and wherein said
3 control circuit displays a prompt on said display prompting a
4 user to place a card on a certain tray of said tray assembly
5 depending on said determined tray height.

1 8. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said memory
2 includes a lookup table correlating card type with operating
3 parameters of said reader, wherein said control circuit reads
4 data of said lookup table so that operating parameters of said
5 reader vary depending upon a card type of said card.

1 9. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said control
2 circuit determines a card type of said card by displaying on
3 said display a card type prompt prompting a user for card
4 type information and by reading user input data input in
5 response to said card type prompt.

1 10. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said memory
2 includes a lookup table correlating card type information with
3 dataform information, wherein said control circuit deactivates
4 certain decoding algorithms when processing a card based on
5 said dataform information so that decoding algorithms
6 activated by said control circuit when processing a card
7 depend on a card type of said card.

1 11. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said control
2 circuit is adapted to:
3 display in said display a rightside up prompt prompting a

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4 user to place an identification card in said tray rightside
5 up;
6 read a dataform of a topside of said card;
7 display on said display an upside down prompt prompting a
8 user to place an identification card in said tray bottomside
9 up;
10 read a dataform of a bottomside of said card;
11 compare decoded dataform data from a topside of a card to
12 decoded dataform data from a bottomside of a card; and
13 display on said display an INVALID CARD message if there
14 is a mismatch of topside and bottomside data.

1 12. The card reader of claim 9, wherein a dataform of a
2 topside of said card is an OCR decodable dataform and wherein
3 a dataform of a bottomside of said card is a symbol dataform.

1 13. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said control
2 circuit decodes said at least one dataform to determine a
3 first set of image information, captures an image
4 representation of a photograph of said card to determine a
5 second set of image information, and displays on said display
6 said first set of image information side by side said second
7 set of image information.

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1 14. The card reader of claim 1, further comprising a mag
2 stripe reader, wherein said control circuit is adapted to:
3 decode said dataform of said card to generate a first
4 decoded message from a first card;
5 display on said display a prompt prompting a user to
6 swipe a second card in said mag stripe reader;
7 read said mag stripe of said second card to generate a
8 second decoded message from a second card; and
9 compare said first decoded message to said second decoded
10 message.

1 15. The card reader of claim 1, wherein said card reader
2 is in communication with an external database, and wherein
3 said control circuit is adapted to:
4 decode a dataform of said card to generate a dataform
5 message;
6 parse data of one certain field of said dataform message
7 from remaining data from said dataform message;
8 access said external database;
9 call database data from said remote database using said
10 parsed field data; and
11 compare remaining data from said dataform message to said

12 database data called from said remote database.

1 16. The card reader of claim 13, wherein said parsed
2 field data parsed from said dataform message is name field
3 data.

1 17. The card reader of claim 13, wherein said remote
2 database is stored on a server of the internet.

1 18. The reader of claim 1, wherein said reader is mobile
2 and hand-held, wherein said housing comprises a front and a
3 top, wherein said imaging axis extends from a front of said
4 reader, wherein said tray assembly extends from a front of
5 said housing, and wherein said control panel and display are
6 disposed in top of said housing.

1 19. The reader of claim 1, wherein said control circuit
2 is adapted to display messages on said display that vary
3 depending upon a level of degradation of said card.

1 20. The reader of claim 1, wherein said control circuit
2 is adapted to generate an error correction value when reading
3 a card and wherein said control circuit displays a message in
4 said display that varies depending upon said error correction
5 value.